

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-20 are pending.

Initially, it is noted with appreciation that claims 11-20 are free of substantive rejections and thus should be allowable upon correction of the informalities noted in the Action. Such informalities are all believed to be properly addressed by the present Amendment, and thus claims 11-20 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The drawings stand rejected because of informalities. Corrected drawing sheets each labeled "Replacement Sheet" for FIGS. 3 and 11 are enclosed herewith. Paragraphs [0018], [0026] and [0027] are amended as suggested in the Action.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a). The Action states that the linear and dotted configurations recited in claim 20 must be shown in the drawings or cancelled from this claim. However, these features are clearly disclosed in paragraphs [0036] and [0053], FIG. 3 shows the linear thin portion 126a, and as corrected also shows the disclosed dotted configuration for the separable portion as recited in claim 20.

The specification is amended in paragraph [0039] to address the informality noted in the Action.

The Terminal Disclaimers filed with the previously filed Amendment are refiled herewith and corrected as noted in the Action.

Claims 2-5, 8-10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

With respect to paragraph 10c in the Action, it is noted that claim 9 does end with a period, and no correction in this regard is needed. On the other hand, the instances of indefiniteness noted in paragraphs 10a, 10b and 10d-10f are all addressed by amendments to the claims herein. In particular, claim 5 is amended to call for an airbag apparatus in combination with a motorcycle to address the

indefiniteness noted in paragraphs 10d and 10f. Claim 5 is further amended to correct the typo so that the word “us” is deleted to address the indefiniteness noted in paragraph 10a. Claims 9 and 20 are amended so that the “frangible portion” is changed to the “separable portion” to address the indefiniteness noted in paragraphs 10b and 10e, respectively.

Claims 2, 5 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,846,009 to Kuroe, et al. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Kuroe, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,099,028 to Seifert.

The rejections, as they may apply to the claims presented herein, are respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is directed to a combination of an airbag apparatus and a motorcycle including a handlebar and calls for an airbag that includes at least a portion thereof that is mounted to the handlebar. The handlebar cover extends over the handlebar and the airbag portion. A separable portion of the handlebar cover is provided at which the handlebar cover opens upon deployment of the airbag. The airbag includes another portion mounted to a location of the motorcycle other than at the handlebar. None of the relied upon art discloses or suggests the recited airbag of amended claim 5.

Kuroe, et al. fail to disclose or suggest an airbag that includes portions both mounted to the handlebar and to a location of the motorcycle other than at the handlebar, as required in claim 5. Kuroe, et al. disclose an embodiment in FIGS. 1-6 where the airbag 20 is supported entirely on the steering handle 8. In the other embodiment taught by Kuroe, et al. shown in FIGS. 7-9, the airbag 122 is stored entirely in the pipe stem 116. Thus, Kuroe, et al. fail to disclose or suggest the recited airbag that includes portions both mounted to the handlebar and to a location of the motorcycle other than at the handlebar, as required by claim 5. Accordingly, it is

believed that claim 5, and claims 2-4 and 8-10 which depend cognately therefrom, are allowable over the relied upon art.

Claim 7 is directed to a combination of an airbag apparatus in a motorcycle and calls for an airbag having a portion mounted to the motorcycle handlebar and a retainer housing having an interior and being mounted off of the handlebar with the airbag including another portion mounted in the interior of the retainer housing. The airbag portion mounted to the handlebar is external of the retainer housing prior to airbag deployment. None of the recited art discloses or suggests the airbag and retainer housing as called for in amended claim 7.

Kuroe, et al. disclose and show that their corresponding airbag housing 121 contains the entire airbag 122 in its folded state. In the Action, it is asserted that cylindrical mounting member 124 and mouthpiece 125 constitute a retainer. However, it is clear that these parts 124 and 125 are not a retainer housing having an interior, as recited in amended claim 7. Instead, it is the storage cylinder 121a of the airbag housing 121 disclosed by Kuroe, et al. that corresponds to the recited retainer housing having an interior of amended claim 7. Moreover, the embodiment of FIGS. 7-9 lacks a portion of the airbag that is external of this housing 121 and mounted to the motorcycle handlebar. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 7 is allowable over Kuroe, et al.

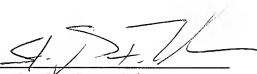
Based on the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-5 and 7-20 are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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